

**Ex-CIA agent:**

STAT

# Agency in league with multinational business

By Kevin Jeffries  
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The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is using terror to control the domestic politics of countries in Central America, Africa and the Middle East, a former agency intelligence officer told a group at St. Ambrose College Saturday night.

The purpose of CIA interference, he said, is to maintain low wages and prices for multinational corporations operating in third world nations, Ralph McGehee, a former agent and Moline resident, said.

McGehee, a veteran agent of 25 years who quit his job in protest of agency tactics in Vietnam and other areas, told a group of about 30 persons the CIA uses out and out lies coupled with faked documentation in order to swing public opinion to favor of covert operations by American spies.

McGehee said there is no reason for the American people to believe much of the information provided by the U.S. government because it is often times tainted with CIA misinformation.

AS AN EXAMPLE, McGehee points to Vietnam where he spent several of his years with the CIA as a field officer.

He charged the CIA with arranging the election of the first of the U.S.-sponsored dictators in Vietnam, Ngo

Dinh Diem. He said there were more votes for Diem than registered voters in the country because of CIA tampering.

PRIOR TO THE election, he said, the CIA used a nuclear threat to induce pro-western North Vietnamese to flee south. He said the CIA issued a report showing the area of destruction if the U.S. were to use nuclear weapons and within days the flow of refugees south nearly tripled.

He said although the media reported the North Vietnamese were "voting with their feet," refugees were really reacting to CIA "terror."

In the mid-1960s, he said, the CIA was successful in leveraging public support to bomb Vietnam and send U.S. troops to the country by loading a ship with Communist weapons and capturing it off the Vietnamese coast. He said the alleged arms shipment was used as a pretext for President Lyndon Johnson's Operation Rolling Thunder, which meant continuous bombing of North Vietnam, and U.S. troop deployments.

He said in the 1960s CIA reports were used to convince U.S. citizens the war in South Vietnam was the result of an invasion by North Vietnam. He said in fact there were no North Vietnamese in the south.

He said although the revelations of Watergate and Vietnam in the mid-1960s led the CIA to relax operations in the mid-1970s, the agency is start-

ing to use its old tactics again. He said the same CIA tactics which got the U.S. into Vietnam are currently being employed in Central America, Africa and the Middle East.

He said after the invasion of Granada the government announced the discovery of six warehouses of Communist weapons which President Ronald Reagan contended were for use in spreading revolution throughout the Caribbean. He said when the media were finally let onto the island nation 48 hours after the invasion, only two warehouses were found and the weapons inside turned out to originate from both the U.S. and Communist countries.

"Right now everything's happening all over again," McGehee said.

The former agent says he's figured out why the CIA busies itself with the overthrow of properly elected governments so dictatorial power can be established.

"WE'RE DOING IT because the CIA is the action arm of the multinational corporations," he said.

He said a dictator uses terror and suppression to maintain power and to cooperate with the multinationals to keep wages and prices low.

With wages in some third world countries as much as 10 times lower than that of the U.S., multinationals are very interested in maintaining current conditions.